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BRIGHTLINGSEA
URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of the
Medical Officer of Health
for 1963



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BRIGHTLINGSEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for 1963.

Chairman:

Cr. Miss J. Culling.

Vice-Chairman:

Cr. L. Barnard.

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: Cr. W. H. Fisher.

Cr. R. V. Crook, J. P.

Cr. L. Barnard.

Cr. Miss J. Culling.

Cr. C. A. W. Knopp.

Cr. A. W. Dodds.

R. A. STENHOUSE, L.M.S.S.A.(Lond.), D.P.H., (R.C.P & S.,)
F.R.I.P.H.H.

Medical Officer of Health to the Urban Districts of
Brightlingsea, Clacton, Frinton and Walton, the Rural District
of Tendring and Assistant County Medical Officer.

J. COLVIN, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.,

Public Health Inspector,
Surveyor,
Meat and Food Inspector,
Water Engineer.

Town Hall,
Brightlingsea,
Colchester,
Essex.

Telephone No: 326.
Brightlingsea 326.

September, 1964.

Madam Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the state of Public Health in the Urban District of Brightlingsea for 1963.

There were 227 cases of infectious disease all of which were cases of measles.

Deaths from cancer were 12, which includes 1 death from lung cancer.

The birth rate is 20.5 and the infant mortality rate is 24.0 compared with 18.2 and 20.9 respectively for the National figures. The Registrar General's figures for mid-year population is 4,950 an increase of 180.

The health of the community has thus remained on the whole at a satisfactory level.

The infant welfare clinic has been well attended and immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough; and vaccination against smallpox has been carried out on an increasing number of infants and children. The high incidence of chickenpox has carried some disruption in school attendances, it is believed that the immunity of the school population of the district has now reached by natural process a higher level against this disease.

The municipal swimming pool has been the cause for some anxiety during the summer months. Although sampling has proved on the whole quite satisfactory from a bacteriological point of view, and although the maintenance of the pool leaves nothing to be desired, it is hoped, that, because of its very nature, it will eventually be replaced by a smaller one with filtration plant to meet the public demand of to-day.

The need is now being felt in the face of new legislation in connection with Public Health and Hygiene for an Additional Public Health Inspector, and it is hoped that consideration will be given soon to the remedy of this need, which will be more acutely felt as time goes on. The increasing difficulty of obtaining suitable staff must be continuously borne in mind.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Public Health Committee and to the Council as a whole for their co-operation during the year. To the Staff of the Public Health Department I express my thanks for their work during the year.

I am, Madam Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. A. STENHOUSE,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICAL MEMORANDUM FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF BRIGHTLINGSEA 1963.

Area in acres	...	...	2,852
Population:			
1963 Registrar General's Estimate			4,950
1961 Census	...		4,800
Density of population per acre	...		1.7
Rateable value	...	...	£133,041
Sum represented by a penny rate	...		£ 515
Number of inhabited dwellings (approx)			1,966
Total live births	...	...	83
Birth rate crude	...	...	16.7
Birth rate corrected	...	...	20.5
Birth rate (England and Wales)	...	...	18.2
Total live and still births	...	...	85
Total still births	...	...	2
Still birth rate	...	...	24.0
Still birth rate (England and Wales)	...	...	17.3
Total deaths	...	...	88
Death rate crude	...	...	17.7
Death rate corrected	...	...	12.4
Death rate (England and Wales)	...	...	12.2
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age	...	...	2
Infant mortality rate - total	...	...	24.0
Infant mortality rate (England and Wales)	...	...	20.9
Infant mortality rate - legitimate	...	...	24.0
Infant mortality rate - illegitimate	...	...	-
Neo-natal mortality rate	...	...	24.0
Early neo-natal mortality rate	...	...	24.0
Perinatal mortality rate	...	...	47.0
Number of illegitimate births	...	...	5
Percentage of total births	...	...	6.0
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	-
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	...	...	-
Maternal mortality rate	...	...	-
Cancer deaths	...	...	12
Tuberculosis deaths	...	...	-

LIVE BIRTHS

Male	Female
45	38
Total: 83.	

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1963.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis ...	--	--	--
Cancer (all sites) ...	3	9	12
Diabetes ...	1	2	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	4	11
Coronary disease, angina	12	11	23
Other heart disease ...	5	8	13
Other circulatory disease	2	1	3
Influenza ...	1	--	1
Pneumonia ...	--	4	4
Bronchitis ...	3	2	5
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	--	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	4	6
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	--	2
All other accidents ...	2	--	2
Suicide ...	--	2	2
	<u>41</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>88</u>

DEATH OF VARIOUS AGES DURING 1963.

Under 1 year	2
1 - 5 years	1
5 - 14 years	1
15 - 24 years	1
25 - 44 years	1
45 - 65 years	17
65 - 75 years	21
75 and upwards	44
	<u>88</u>

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The following figures show the number of infectious diseases which were notified in the district during 1963:-

Disease	Cases Notified	Cases to Hospital	Cases at Home	Cases Confirmed	Deaths
Measles	227	-	227	227	-

TUBERCULOSIS 1963.

No cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year.

Total Cases on Register at end of 1963 = 27

The age groups of the cases on the register are as follows:-

Age Groups in Years	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Totals
	M	F	M	F	
1 - 5	-	1	-	-	1
15 - 25	2	2	-	-	4
25 - 35	3	2	1	-	6
35 - 45	4	1	-	1	6
45 - 55	6	-	-	-	6
55 - 65	2	2	-	-	4
65 - 75	-	-	-	-	-
Totals:	17	8	1	1	27

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLIES

As a result of an electrical failure in the operating and standby submersible pumps at the Lower Park bore hole, the town was in danger in May of being without a water supply. Emergency measures were taken to avoid this failure by arranging for a temporary supply to be pumped by the Essex County Fire Service from the Tendring Hundred Water Company's mains at Thorrington. At the same time arrangements were made for the loan of a suitable pump from the Civil Defence emergency equipment held by the Norwich Water Undertaking. As a result of this action supplies were maintained throughout the town.

In the latter half of the year negotiations were entered into with the Tendring Hundred Water Company to make available a bulk supply to this authority and arrangements have been made to provide a 6" supply from the Company's mains.

The provision of the main by the Tendring Hundred Water Company was subject to this authority reducing the pumping rate at the Lower Park Works to not more than 100,000 gallons per day and this restriction was imposed with a view to reducing the rate of saline infiltration into the supply.

The total number of dwelling houses supplied from the public mains is estimated to be 2138 and some 25 houses are provided with water from an outside standpipe only.

Water samples are submitted regularly for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis and results have maintained a satisfactory standard. A typical chemical analysis and bacteriological examination in connection with our supplies is set out below.

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

	<u>Church Road Waterworks</u>	<u>Lower Park Waterworks</u>
Colour	Nil	Nil
Reaction pH.	6.2	7.7
Electric Conductivity	750	1500
Chlorine present as Chloride	44	300
Hardness: Total	300	230
Carbonate	20	230
Non-Carbonate	280	0
Nitrate Nitrogen	31	0.0
Nitrite Nitrogen	Absent	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.000	0.78
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.033	0.026
Metals (Iron, Zinc, Copper and Lead)	Absent	Absent
Iron	Nil	0.14
Turbidity	Nil	Nil
Odour	Faintly "chlorinous"	Nil
Free Carbon Dioxide	24	11
Dissolved Solids dried at 180°C	560	950
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	20	285
Oxygen Absorbed	0.50	0.40
Residual Chlorine	0.11	-

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS ! CHURCH ROAD WATERWORKS

No. of Colonies developing on Agar	<u>1 day at 37°C</u> 0 per ml.	<u>2 days at 37°C</u> 0 per ml.
	<u>3 days at 37°C</u> 0 per ml.	
Presumptive Coliform reactions:	Present in - ml. Absent from 100 ml. Probable No. 0 per 100 ml.	
Bact. coli (Type 1)	Present in - ml. Absent from 100 ml. Probable No. 0 per 100 ml.	
Cl. welchii reaction	Present in - ml. Absent from - ml.	

This sample is clear and bright in appearance and is free from metals. It has, however, a slightly acid reaction due to its content of free carbon dioxide and will, therefore, be expected to show corrosive action on metals. The water is hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents are not considered excessive. Its organic quality and bacterial purity are of a high standard.

These results indicate a wholesome water. Its nitrate content is, however, considered undesirably high for use in the preparation of infant feeds and admixture with other water is therefore considered advisable for public supply purposes.

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS - LOWER PARK WATERWORKS

No. of Colonies developing on Agar	<u>1 day at 37°C</u>	<u>2 days at 37°C</u>
	0 per ml.	0 per ml.
	<u>3 days at 37°C</u>	
	-- per ml.	
Presumptive Coliform reaction	Present in - ml. Absent from 100 ml. Probable 0 per 100 ml.	
Bact. coli (Type 1)	Present in - ml. Absent from 100 ml. Probable No. 0 per 100 ml.	
Cl. welchii reaction	Present in - ml. Absent from - ml.	

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The water is hard in character but not to an excessive degree; its somewhat high content of mineral and saline constituents is normal for this source. It is of a high standard of organic quality and bacterial purity.

These results indicate a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic uses.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

Progress continues in the scheme for providing new relief and storm water sewers and new sewage disposal works for the area. A provisional starting date for commencing the sewage works in connection with the scheme is Autumn, 1964. Wherever surface water sewers are to be available estate developers are required to provide a dual system of drainage in their estate layouts.

RIVER AND STREAM POLLUTION

Samples of the treated effluent from our existing works have been regularly tested by the River Board and results generally were unsatisfactory and point to the urgent need for the reconstruction of the existing disposal works.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION

The following is a synopsis of the principal work carried out by the Public Health Inspector during 1963:-

Inspections (Public Health & Housing Acts)	112
Other inspections primarily in connection with Surveyor's duties	822
Informal notices complied with	25
Informal notices served	2
Statutory Notices complied with	2
Number of premises at which nuisances were abated	5

Schedule of Housing Inspections and Improvements obtained:-

<u>Type of Repair</u>	<u>Repairs completed</u>
Dampness	15
Roof defects	13
Plaster defects	12
Pointing	1
Insufficient Drainage	4
Defective drainage	12
Insufficient or defective closets	2
Defective paving	1

<u>Type of Repair</u>	<u>Repairs completed</u>
Provision of dustbins	1
Adequate water supply	26
Dangerous buildings	2
Defective floors	6
Nuisances	5

Infestation:-

Rats	45
Mice	4

SHOPS ACT, 1950

Inspections have been made when required and no need for action under the Act has been found necessary.

BATHING POOL

Samples of water are taken regularly for bacteriological examination during the year and the results generally were very satisfactory. The Pool however falls considerably short of modern standards and a decision will shortly have to be made as to its future. To this end the Council have employed Consultants to prepare a preliminary report on the provision of a new Pool constructed to modern standards.

CARAVANS AND CAMPING GROUNDS

The local authority continues to operate the only official caravan and camping sites in the area. Additional sanitary accommodation has been provided and the policy of improving the area by raising the levels and providing adequate drainage continues.

HOUSING

New houses and flats erected during 1963:-

Private enterprise	107
Council houses	Nil
Council flats	Nil
	<hr/>
	107
	<hr/>

FOOD

The following list shows the number of visits paid to premises at which food for human consumption is sold or prepared:-

Cafes and restaurants	3
School canteens	2
Butchers' shops	4
Fish friers	2
Wet fish shops	2
Bread and cake shops	3
Ice cream vendors	6
Bakehouses	2
Poultry shops	3

The following is a list of improvements obtained in Food Premises:-

Want of washing facilities	1
Want of cleanliness	-
Sanitary accommodation	1

REGISTRATION OF FOOD PREPARING PREMISES

The number of premises registered pursuant to Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act is as follows:-

Sausage meat, pressed, pickled and preserved meat	6
Sale of ice cream	21

FOOD AND DRUGS AUTHORITY

The Council is not the Food and Drugs Authority for the District.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

There are no licensed slaughterhouses in the area.

During the year the following diseased and unsound food was surrendered and condemned:-

20 lbs. of Lamb Livers	Decomposition
7 lbs. of Ox Kidneys	"

8 lbs. of Corned Beef
8 lbs. of Chopped Pork

Decomposition
"

ICE CREAM

The total number of premises registered for the sale of ice cream is 21. All ice cream sold in the district is pre-wrapped and obtained from reputable sources.

BAKEHOUSES

There are four bakehouses in the Urban District, but none of these are underground premises. Inspections were made during the year.

SHELLFISH

The cold winter of 1963 resulted in the abandonment of the oyster layings in the Brightlingsea Creek. This resulted in the close down of the Oyster Purification Plant which had been partially converted to the ultra violet ray process. It is extremely unlikely that the oyster fisheries will reopen again and the Urban District Council is taking measures to close down the Purification Plan permanently.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The service has functioned satisfactorily during the year but the speed of development in the area has resulted in arrangements being made to obtain an additional and larger vehicle. Disposal of refuse continues by controlled tipping and adequate land is available for this process in the area.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

PART I OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	Number on Reg- ister (2)	Number of		Occupiers prosecuted (5)
		Inspection (3)	Written Notices (4)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	4	4	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	23	21	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	7	7		
Totals:	34	32	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases".)

NO DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK (SECTIONS 133 and 134)

Section 133				Section 134
Nature of work	Number of Out-workers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c) (2)	Number of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	Number of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	Number of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Wearing apparel, making, etc.	6	-	-	-

